

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 18, 2008, and the cited art have been carefully considered. The application has been amended to eliminate unnecessary limitations and to correct grammatical and similar errors. Reconsideration of the rejection of the application is respectfully requested based on the amendments and following discussion.

Applicant uses the clamping tab of the retainer as a thermally conductive shield extending across the press seal. Positioning the clamp tab to cross between the light source and the lower portion of the foil region conducts heat from the whole seal crossing the foil seals, and guards against radiation from the lamp heating the lower seal region. The lower seal region is then better cooled and more able to preserve the sealed entry way into the foil seals. The cooled seals are then better sealed.

REJECTION 102:

1. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by German Gebrauchsmuster G 90 10 517.6 (hereinafter "German '517")

German '517 fails to provide a prima facie case of invalidity under 35 USC 102, since German '517 fails to show, suggest, state or claim a limitation included in Applicants' claims. German '517 fails to teach a "*...the free end of said tab (32) is located closer to the luminous means (2) than the end of said tab(32) which is connected to the base sleeve (3).*". Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the rejected claims are therefore respectfully requested.

German '517 shows the tab seal 16 running axially along the press seal. The free end and the attached end extend equally away from the light source. One end is not closer to the light source than the other end. Further, heat and radiation are free to run between the tabs 16 along the unguarded middle of the press seal.

REJECTION 103:

2. Claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103 over German '517 in view of Jacrot US 4,843,276.

German '517 shows a clamp tab that runs axially with the seal foils. The free end is not closer the light source than is the attached end. The free end as a result does not collect heat across the whole of the press seal prior before reaching the foil ends. The axial tab also does not shield across the whole press seal. Light and heat in German '517 are free to move axially between the tabs to the lower foil region.

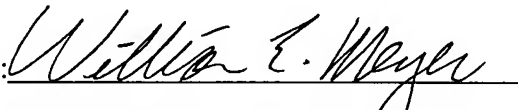
Jacrot '276 shows a metal retainer that presses flat against the press seal. Figure 2 shows this best in cross section. There is no tab extending from the retainer to press against the press seal. There is no air flow, in, around and between the retainer and the press seal.

Jacrot '276 cannot teach the correct tab position, because there is no tab in Jacrot '276.
Jacrot '276 adds nothing to German '517 regarding tab positioning.

The dependent claims 2, 3 and 4 all include the features of independent claim 1.

It is believed that a full and complete response to the Office Action has been made, that the Application as amended is patentably distinct over the cited art, and that the case is now in condition to be passed to issue. Reconsideration of the amended application is therefore requested, and an early favorable notice of allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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